

Show of Hands

Fairfax County Public Library Volunteer Newsletter



Fall 2001

A friend told me she always assumed “The earth is solid under my feet” ... until she moved to San Francisco. During this difficult time for our nation, we have all had to redefine our assumptions. We must reexamine what we are “tethered” to that will continue to give us stability, courage, and confidence.

One assumption I still make is that people are inherently good. Against the harmful actions of a few, I measure the many thousands of positive connections we public librarians experience each day with people of every age, race, cultural background, income level, ability, and viewpoint. As we help our patrons to educate, inform, and entertain themselves, we become aware of the many good purposes behind their library use. It is uplifting to be part of this.

I am especially inspired by our volunteers. We meet you first as patrons and enjoy that relationship with you. But then something motivates you to begin to help us and the public. You join us in checking books in and out, organizing shelves, helping with children’s programs, providing Internet tutorials and programs, and participating in many other volunteer activities. You work side by side with us, but your only “paycheck” is our thanks and the knowledge that you are making a difference in the quality of life in your community.

Thank you, volunteers. The goodness that motivates you to give back to your community is a tether for us as we face the future. As long as you are there, caring about others enough to volunteer in your public library, you are a symbol of the best in human nature. Thank you for joining us in service to your community, and renewing through each kindly act our confidence in the future.

Edwin S. Clay III
Library Director



Show of Hands is published three times per year by the Fairfax County Public Library, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324, Fairfax, VA 22035, (703) 324-3100. Contact the Director of Volunteer Programs, Kate Wanderer, at (703) 324-8332 or kwanderer@co.fairfax.va.us. Visit the Library’s Web site at: www.co.fairfax.va.us/library

Alternative formats available. Call Access Services at (703) 324-8380 or TTY (703) 324-8365.



Surf's Up Web Camp at Kingstowne Attracts 105 Junior Surfers

This summer, the Kingstowne Community Library delighted its patrons with a brand new type of programming: a series of two-hour Web Camp sessions for kids ages 3 to 12. The 105 Junior Surfers explored educational and fun opportunities on the World Wide Web, developing strong online navigation skills and learning Web safety. Each child earned a Web Surfing Certificate. A big thank you to ExxonMobil for the generous grant that funded this opportunity for Kingstowne children.

Special thanks to volunteer Anju Gupta, who contributed 32 volunteer hours assisting children and parents during the workshops, Kelly Noesner, the ExxonMobil summer intern from Mary Washington College who coordinated the Web Camp, and the volunteers who assisted them: Osman Malik, Elease Dennis, Laura Mandeville, Sarah Stone, Philip Sims, Lynn Horrick, and Mihir Elchuri. Congratulations also to Kingstowne staff members Nancy Ryan and Jill Woodall, who created and implemented this innovative pilot program, and to Susan Wallace, Library Foundation Director, and Vera Fessler, Library Associate Director/Grants Coordinator, for developing the grant proposal.

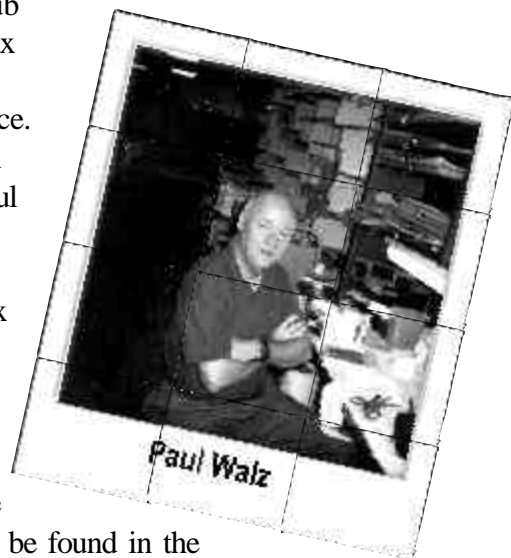
Anju Gupta and
Kelly Noesner ▶

Kelly Noesner and
Junior Surfers ▼



Inter-Service Club Council Honors Fairfax City Volunteer Paul Walz

Paul Walz, a County employee who worked in the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, was honored in August by the Inter-Service Club Council of Fairfax for outstanding community service. Before he passed away in May, Paul was a dedicated volunteer book mender at Fairfax City Regional Library.



Every Monday evening for three years, Paul could be found in the workroom restoring damaged books while humming along with “oldies but goodies” tunes on the radio. An avid reader himself, he enjoyed returning books to the collection for continued use by the public. He loved intricate mending challenges, and to improve his skill, even studied book binding on his own.

Paul lived in Fairfax for more than 34 years, serving in the Army, the Old Guard at Arlington, before starting to work for the County. He also volunteered on Friday evenings with “TV and Me,” a local television show devoted to non-violence in children’s programming. The Library extends condolences to Paul’s family and appreciation for his important contribution to the Fairfax County community.

Nancy Makowski, Volunteer Coordinator, Fairfax City Regional Library

Thomas Jefferson Volunteers Win Presidential Award



Congratulations to student volunteers Ei Ei Nyane, Aye Nyane, and Erica Howe, who won President's Student Service Awards for outstanding contributions to Thomas Jefferson Library. Ei Ei and Aye attend Marshall High School, and Erica attends Falls Church High School. Each contributed over 100 hours in the Children's Services Department last year, qualifying for the Presidential Gold Award.

Any student from kindergarten through college who contributes at least 100 hours (50 hours for younger students) of service to the community is eligible for the Gold Award. Honorees receive a lapel pin specially designed by the White House and a certificate signed by the President. Students may be certified for the award by their school, college or a community organization. For more information about the program, visit www.student-service-awards.org/awards_index.htm

Beth Rector, Children's Services Librarian, Thomas Jefferson Library

Library Recognizes AMS Technology Volunteers

American Management Systems and Fairfax County Public Library celebrated a successful first year for the AMS/FCPL Technology Volunteer Partnership on September 19th at a luncheon in the Government Center. AMS staff who received awards from Library Director **Edwin S. Clay III** and Director of Volunteer Programs **Kate Wanderer** were **Jennifer Yang, Leah Barrett, Sallie Johnson, Barbara Kuckenbecker, and Andrew Hedges.**

These "Team AMS" members provided one-on-one Internet tutorials and technology programs for the public last year at Fairfax City Regional Library, George Mason Regional Library, Patrick Henry Community Library, and the County-



sponsored Older Workers Expo. They introduced hundreds of new users, many without home computer access, to the Library's catalog, databases, the Internet, and e-mail. Their patient, friendly assistance to English language learners, the elderly, and those with disabilities was

especially helpful in assuring equal access to public library electronic resources. Team AMS has been invaluable in helping FCPL become "a library without walls." Awardees received an FCPL book bag, a Tech Force button, and the limited edition FCPL Volunteers are World Class pin, as well as a certificate of appreciation for community service.

Meg Phillips, Employee Relations Manager for AMS, also received special recognition for her work with the Library to develop the partnership. Meg met with Library staff, advertised within her company, facilitated on-site recruiting for the Library, wrote articles for the AMS newsletter, and coordinated the members of Team AMS who volunteered with the Library. The partnership could not have succeeded without her dedicated efforts.

Thank you, Team AMS, for your outstanding contribution to the Library community!



Left to right: Associate Director Vera Fessler, Volunteer Programs Coordinator Kate Wanderer, AMS Employee Relations Manager Meg Phillips, Fairfax City Regional Electronic Resources Manager Andrew Pendergrass, George Mason Regional Technology Volunteer Supervisor Nancy Ehlke, Associate Director Jan Prasher, Internet Services Coordinator Lydia Patrick, Patrick Henry Assistant Branch Manager Barbara DeBeaufort, AMS Volunteer Leah Barrett, Library Director Edwin S. Clay, and AMS Volunteers Sallie Johnson and Barbara Kuckenbecker.

Fall Volunteer Opportunities

Machine Maintenance Volunteer - Access Services (Government Center)

Inspect audio reproducing machines and perform simple maintenance work that includes cleaning & recharging batteries. Call Beena Pandey at (703) 324-8380.

Children's Department Clerical Assistant (Adult) - Fairfax City Regional Library

Fax, phone, cut materials for preschool programs, work on upkeep of notebooks and reading lists. Training and supervision by Children's Department Head. Contact Pam Johnson at (703) 246-2281.

Computer Monitor - Centreville Regional Library

Help with Internet sign ups during busy afternoons and evenings, two hours per week. Contact Royce Zivan (703)-818-9112 ext. 229; Royce.Zivan@co.fairfax.va.us

Periodical Volunteer - John Marshall Community Library

Keep back and current magazine issues filed and shelf-read. After training, this will involve one or two visits a week on a flexible schedule to work independently. Contact Sandra Leftwich (703) 971-0010.

Technology Volunteer - Woodrow Wilson Community Library (Baileys Crossroads) and Sherwood Regional Library (Alexandria) Gates Technology Labs

Provide one-on-one Internet and/or MS Office tutorials to the public on a weekly basis. Requires familiarity with the Internet or at least one MS Office application, plus good communication skills, patience, and experience in customer service, teaching or training. Contact Kay Rzasa at Woodrow Wilson (703) 820-8774 or Liz Promen at Sherwood (703) 765-3645.

Volunteer Librarian

Many branches would welcome a masters-degreed librarian (or candidate) for projects or public service reference. Contact Kate Wanderer (703) 324-8332; kwande@co.fairfax.va.us, or contact your neighborhood branch.

These positions require a commitment of six months to a year. Internships available. For general information about volunteering, contact Kate Wanderer (703) 324-8332; kwande@co.fairfax.va.us or visit www.co.fairfax.va.us/library

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